



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019 (H.R. 2459)

Dear Chairman Huffman and Ranking Member McClintock:

I am writing to express my support for the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019, H.R. 2459 ("Act"). The Act authorizes and approves a settlement of the Hualapai Tribe's water rights claims in Arizona. This settlement, referred to as the "Phase 2 settlement," follows a partial settlement of the Hualapai Tribe's water rights claims that was approved by Congress in 2014 (H.R. 4924). The 2014 settlement was a limited settlement; it settled only the Tribe's claims in the Bill Williams watershed, and not its claims for its main reservation. The Phase 2 settlement is a comprehensive settlement that settles all of the Tribe's outstanding water rights claims in the state, including claims to the Colorado River, which flows adjacent to the Tribe's main reservation.

Indian tribes in Arizona have some of the oldest and largest claims to water in the state. Resolving these claims is a priority for the state, not only because it will avoid lengthy and costly litigation, but it will provide the certainty that is critical to all Arizona water users as they plan for their futures. In addition, settlements typically provide the settling tribe with the infrastructure necessary to deliver the Tribe's water supplies to the areas on the reservation where it is needed. The Hualapai Tribe Phase 2 settlement is an important step toward achieving the state's goal of resolving the outstanding Indian water rights claims in the state.

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The State of Arizona has worked with the Hualapai Tribe and other water users in the state for several years to reach the settlement. I believe the settlement is fair to all the parties involved and will benefit all the citizens of the state. In addition to settling the Tribe's claims to the Colorado River, it provides the Tribe with an allocation of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water from the river and the infrastructure to bring the water to those areas on the reservation where it is needed, both for basic household services and for economic development. The CAP allocation will allow the Tribe to use a renewable water supply rather than relying on groundwater, consistent with the state's policy of preserving groundwater supplies for times of drought.

I would like to thank Representative O'Halleran for introducing this important legislation in the House of Representatives, as well as all the members of the Arizona delegation who have signed onto the legislation as co-sponsors. I would also like to thank the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife for hearing the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: Arizona Congressional Delegation